

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 14-17 and 21 are amended.

Entry of the Amendment is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the Amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) does not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration; (c) does not add any additional claims; and (d) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. In particular, new issues are not being raised because the amendments are being made in reply to the Examiner's response on pages 4 and 5 of the Office Action. Entry of the Amendment is thus respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 1-13 and 25 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 18-20 and 22-24.

Claims 14-16, 21 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Ishii et al. (Ishii), U.S. Patent No. 6,206,501. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed with the Examiner, Ishii fails to disclose a manifold channel formed to be an annular looped channel, as recited in claims 14-16 and 21.

Ishii fails to disclose a manifold channel formed to be an annular looped channel because Ishii discloses V-shaped windows 116, 120. Because Ishii uses V-shaped windows 116, 120, as illustrated in Fig. 2, Ishii fails to disclose using an annular looped channel. An annular looped channel is thus not created because a V-shaped channel is being formed. In view of the comments presented on pages 4 and 5 of the Office Action, claims 14-16 and 21 recite an annular looped channel, which is not the same as the alleged looped channel formed by Ishii's V-shaped windows 116, 120.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Ishii in view of Burr et al. (Burr), U.S. Patent No. 5,907,338. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

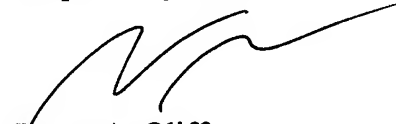
As discussed above, Ishii fails to disclose a manifold channel formed to be an annular looped channel, as recited in claim 17. Burr fails to overcome the deficiencies of Ishii. Burr is only being applied to suggest etching.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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